

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 033978

P R 242131Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8803

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10488

EXDIS

FOR DEAN BROWN FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SREF, CB, VS, US, FR

SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR CAMBODIANS AND SOUTH
VIETNAMESE

REF: (A) STATE 90646 EXDIS; (B) PARIS 9718 EXDIS

(C) STATE 90941 EXDIS (D) STATE 90648 EXDIS (E) PARIS
9804 EXDIS

1. AS AMBASSADOR TO A COUNTRY WHICH WILL PROBABLY
PROVIDE ASYLUM FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE AND
CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, I WANT YOU TO HAVE MY IDEAS ON THE
GENERAL SUBJECT OF U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS AS IT AFFECTS FRANCE.

2. I HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE TONE OF SOME RECENT
MESSAGES CONCERNING U.S. POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT. I
REALIZE THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED NOT TO GIVE ASSUR-
ANCES WHICH WOULD GO BEYOND WHAT CURRENT LEGISLATION
AND BUDGETS NOW PROVIDE FOR, AND ANTICIPATE THAT THIS
SITUATION WILL SOON IMPROVE.

(A) THE FREQUENT USE OF THE TERM "FAIR SHARE" STRIKES
ME AS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT
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TO TALK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE UN -- MUCH LESS

JOURNALISTS -- IN TERMS OF A U.S. "FAIR SHARE" OF MUCH LESS THAN 100 PERCENT RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THOSE WHOSE PREDICAMENT IS IN MANY WAYS THE RESULT OF U.S. ADVICE AND ACTIONS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ATTEMPTING TO HIDE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES BY REFERRING TO ITS "FAIR SHARE", AND YET A LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN FORMER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. WILL PROBABLY BE PERMITTED TO SETTLE IN FRANCE.

(B) DURING THE LAST DAYS OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE EMBASSIES ABROAD, INCLUDING THE SALARIES OF CAMBODIAN AS WELL AS INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL, WERE NOT MET. WHILE THE GRUNK MAY PICK UP SOME GKR EMBASSY DEBTS ALONG WITH ASSETS (SUCH AS BUILDINGS) THEY WILL NOT MAKE THE BACK-SALARY PAYMENTS WHICH WILL PERMIT CAMBODIAN EX-DIPLOMATS TO COVER THEIR DEBTS. IT THEREFORE SEEMS UNREALISTIC AND IRRESPONSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO EXCLUDE FROM CONSIDERATION (AS STATED IN REF A) OUR COVERING SOME OF THESE DEBTS. WE MAY LATER FIND SIMILAR PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS ABROAD.

(C) WHILE I HAVE GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS' HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IN ALL CASES TO WORK THROUGH THE UNHCR OR OTHER AGENCIES. (I NOTE ALSO THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HERE HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD FROM WASHINGTON YET ABOUT FUNDS FOR CAMBODIANS EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD (REF A) TO REFER CAMBODIANS TO SUCH AGENCIES.) PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF FORMER HIGH OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. WE SHALL HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY NOT EASILY DISCHARGED THROUGH ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ONE EXAMPLE WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IS THE REQUEST FROM THE FORMER KHMER CHIEF OF STATE CHENG HENG (REF E) IN THE FORM OF A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ALREADY REQUESTS FROM THE FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE KHMER ARMED FORCES, A FORMER MINISTER AND NUMEROUS DIPLOMATS; WE SHALL FORWARD SUCH REQUESTS WHEN THE RESPONSE TO CHENG HENG'S LETTER INDICATES HOW SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD BE HANDLED. IT DOES NOT SEEM PROPER TO ME MERELY TO REFER SUCH PERSONAGES TO THE UNHCR. AN
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ATTEMPT TO AVOID USG DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY WOULD IN EFFECT SUGGEST THAT IT WAS CORRUPT OFFICIALS (WHO PROVIDED FOR THEIR FUTURE OFTEN THROUGH DIVERTING U.S. AID) WHO BEST UNDERSTOOD THE REAL NATURE OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT AND SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. THE STORIES OF THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WHICH SOME CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE HAVE PUT AWAY IN FRANCE OR SWITZERLAND WILL HIGHLIGHT ANY U.S. ATTEMPT TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR

THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY HONESTLY. I BELIEVE THAT

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EXDIS

SPECIAL FUNDS AND SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES COMMENSOR-
ATE WITH OUR SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE NECESSARY
TO HANDLE THE SPECIAL CASES OF FORMER HIGH OFFICIALS
AND FORMER DIPLOMATS OF BOTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA.

3. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS NOW PRIMARILY CONCERNED
WITH FRENCH CITIZENS OF CAMBODIAN OR VIETNAMESE ORIGIN
OR THE CLOSE RELATIVES OF FRENCH CITIZENS. IN GENERAL,
THE GOF IS SUGGESTING THAT THESE PERSONS REMAIN IN
PLACE; PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF ASSURANCES FROM THE PRG
AND DRV THAT THEIR LIVES WILL NOT BE IN DANGER. THIS
SITUATION MAY WELL SOON CHANGE, AND WITH 10,000 FRENCH
CITIZENS IN VIETNAM AND 700 IN CAMBODIA, THE GOF WILL
HAVE A CONSIDERABLE PROBLEM WITH PERSONS FOR WHOM IT
FEELS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER WE HAVE ASSUR-
ANCES THAT THE GOF WILL ALSO BE GENEROUS (REF B) IN
ACCEPTING SOME CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE WHOM IT WOULD
CONSIDER AS A U.S. "RESPONSIBILITY" BECAUSE OF THEIR
CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S. AND ITS POLICY. GIVEN
THE LINGUISTIC AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF MOST ADULT
VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS AND THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICA-
TIONS OF MANY OF THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR SETTLEMENT HERE
WOULD BE FAR EASIER THAN IN THE U.S. THUS, THE LONGER

TERM PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES WILL BE MEASURABLY
REDUCED BY FRENCH HOSPITALITY. ON THE OTHER HAND,
THE COSTS OF RESETTLEMENT CAN HARDLY BE BORNE BY THE
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FRENCH GOVERNMENT ALONE, SINCE THE MAGNITUDE WILL
GREATLY EXCEED THE GOF'S "FAIR SHARE". WE MUST THERE-
FORE WORK OUT A PROGRAM WHICH WILL RECOGNIZE THAT
FRANCE MAY TAKE AN "UNFAIR SHARE" OF THE NUMBER OF
REFUGEES AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND
WITH A FINANCIAL GENEROSITY -- IN FRANCE AS WELL AS
ELSEWHERE -- WHICH EQUALS FRENCH HOSPITALITY.

4. I HOPE THAT THE GOF WILL SOON HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS
WITH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CONCERNING
CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE FOR WHOM THE U.S. HAS A
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY. TO MAKE THESE DISCUSSIONS MORE
FRUITFUL, I HOPE WE SHALL SOON HAVE (A) MORE DETAILS ON
THE PAROLE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WISHING TO ENTER THE
UNITED STATES, (B) INFORMATION ON HOW WE MAY HANDLE
SOME TRANSITIONAL EXPENSES FOR FORMER HIGH OFFICIALS,
AND (C) WHAT THE U.S. MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE DIRECTLY
OR THROUGH THE UNHCR TO ASSIST IN THE SETTLEMENT OF
CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE IN FRANCE.

5. FRANCE WILL CERTAINLY BE ONE OF THE COUNTRIES MOST
INVOLVED IN THE RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND IT
MAY BE NECESSARY LATER TO REQUEST SPECIAL PERSONNEL TO
HANDLE NOT ONLY THE VISA ASPECTS OF THE U.S. PROGRAM
BUT PERHAPS ALSO TO IMPLEMENT ANY SPECIAL, TEMPORARY
PROGRAM OF DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
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